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Title: On the Nature of Magic: Part 1

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Dedicated to all who  
strive in the pursuit  
of knowledge

## 1. Scholarship

Many claim that the  
essence of magic is  
unknown and  
unknowable. They  
say that, "magic is  
here, do not ask why."  
indeed, while this is  
an understandable  
attitude in the layman,  
this view is held not  
only by the layman,  
but by many mages  
themselves. While  
such "mages" are often  
effective, they lack  
the depth of  
understanding that  
marks a true scholar.

## 2. What magic isn't

Let us first describe  
magic by what it is  
not. Magic is not an  
unknowable "black  
box" It is not simply a  
set of words and  
chemicals that people  
combine to form an  
effect. Magic is not  
limitless in power, yet  
neither is it limited in  
what it can do save for  
practical constraints.

### 3. What is magic (in brief)

Magic is a technique by which the mage is able to cause changes to occur. Some of these changes are subtle such as telepathy, while others are extremely violent such as an energy vortex.

### 4. Traditional magic theory

The traditional school of magic is that magic is a sort of "black box" wherein the mage uses certain reagents and utters certain words and a spell is formed.

Some Scholars of the traditional school have expanded this into a basic theory that certain words of power and reagents have specific properties and that is why the various combinations work. For example the Word An is considered to mean negation while Nox stands for poison. The reagents garlic and ginseng are considered to have healing properties and are also used in this spell. Indeed, the "negate poison" spell does work, and it is that and many other similar examples that cause members of the traditional school of magic theory to have so large a following.

### 5. Flaws in traditional magic

theory

Traditional magic theory suffices as an explanation of the basic eight circles of spells, but it does not satisfactorily explain the plethora of other magical phenomena that are found throughout the world. For example, there is no way according to traditional magic theory for my own immortality to be accounted for. I did not utter words of power nor did I expend reagents to become immortal, I simply am.

Another, less controversial issue is the existence of magical weaponry and armor. By traditional magic theory there is no way for such objects to exist. Indeed I know no spell that exists within the traditional eight circles of power that can enchant an object.

The most significant flaw in traditional magic theory involves the casting of spells by non human creatures such as orcs, dragons, and gnomes. creatures carry few if any reagents and do not utter traditional words of power and yet I can attest by personal experience that they can and do